

Mission:

The Policy Workgroup has been chartered to recommend policies and organization structure to support the development and implementation of a shared vision and plan for addressing health care quality and cost through health information technology (HIT) and health information exchange (HIE) in Alabama. In the long-term it is anticipated that a separate governing body will be necessary to coordinate interoperable HIE in Alabama, which, as currently contemplated, would serve to:

- Provide leadership, encourage collaboration/cooperation
- Support/Facilitate adoption of HIT
- Ensure equitable and ethical approach to HIE
- Ensure uniform approach to HIE via guidelines
- Negotiate standards for interoperability between regional HIEs
- Collect and distribute funding/align financial incentives
- Serve as a resource center
- Leverage use of existing resources
- Make policy recommendations, particularly for Security and Privacy
- Consider implementing infrastructure if demonstrated need exists
- Develop marketing/communications plan
- Promote public accountability/metrics

Scope and Boundaries:

- Organizational advantages and constraints within Alabama
- Opportunities to implement Operational and Organizational models which are complementary to other Alabama activities
- Explore and demonstrate how a standalone Organizational Governance model is or is not best suited to meet the needs of Alabama to include addressing pertinent legal issues related to Stark, anti-kickback and private inurement when making recommendations
- High-level business requirements
- Stakeholder concerns
- Develop key success criteria for organization and governance
- Develop a Communications Plan

The Policy Workgroup will **NOT** focus on specific responsibilities of the other workgroups.

Constraints:

- Credibility/Trust/ Willingness to share info
- Turf
- Medical Liability
- Reluctance of providers to change
- Consumer fears, privacy

High-Level Timeline/Action Plan through October, 2008 (UPDATED as Needed):

Action/Milestone	Deliverable (if applicable)	Completion Date (target)	Comments
Review and Recommend Governance Structure			
Review and recommend meeting rules			
Small			
Pilot			
Involve stakeholders			

Workgroup Membership:

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Al Fox	APHCA		

Mike Horsley (Co Chair)	ALHA		
Suzanne Respass	Children's		
Cary Kuhlman	MASA		
Kathy Hall (ALMA Staff Co Chair)	ALMA		
Linda Lee			
Tina Howell	ADRS		
Susan Holmes	AQAF		
Gayle Lees Sandlin	ADPH		
Holley Midgly	AAFP		
Rebekah Elgin Council	BCBS		
Irene Collins	ADSS		
Louise Jones	APA		

Other Notes:

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